

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تلغز يومية سبيل تصد بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

bomb injures 'many' Israelis

AMMAN, Feb. 11 (R) — Many Israelis were wounded when a bomb exploded today at a bus station in Petah Tikva, north-east of Tel Aviv, Palestinian commandos said. The Palestine News (WAPA) quoted a commando spokesman as saying that "many" of "enemy members" were wounded in the blast. A bus and nearby stores were also damaged, he said. A bomb was discovered by Israeli security men nearby and defused, he added. He said that about 100 Palestinians were taken for questioning, but the commandos involved escaped. A report from Tel Aviv said Israeli police detained some commandos for questioning following the explosion which injured 11, one seriously. The blast came soon after the commandos destroyed an Israeli military truck with the time bomb in Jerusalem yesterday. The truck had been used to transport equipment for the construction of military installations, a spokesman said. The commandos returned to their bases safely, a spokesman said.

Hassan cuts short Baghdad visit

BAGHDAD, Feb. 11 (R) — King Hassan of Morocco left Baghdad today after apparently cutting short a visit to Iraq after only a few hours. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said earlier the monarch would be spending a few days in Iraq at the invitation of President Saddam Hussein, following a visit to Saudi Arabia. INA did not give an explanation for the change in the duration of the Iraqi visit, or refer to the king's next stop. INA said President Hussein and King Hassan held a private meeting covering "the most important Arab and international events and the prospects of developing relations between the two fraternal countries." The agency gave no more details about the talks held by the king. The agency said the King was accompanied, among others, by Crown Prince Mohammad and several senior government officials, including his foreign minister, Mr. Mohammad Boucetta and Information Minister Abdul Waheb Belkazi.

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Bani-Sadr hints American hostages may be released

AMMAN, Feb. 11 (R) — Iranian Revolutionary Council and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, hinted today that the hostages could be released quickly if an international commission was set up to examine the record of the ex-Shah of Iran.

Mr. Bani-Sadr indicated that Iran no longer required the return of the Shah — as demanded by the students occupying the U.S. embassy — to guarantee the hostages' release.

Le Monde correspondent Eric Rouleau asked the Iranian president if Iran was waiting for the end of the international commission and the Shah's extradition before freeing the hostages, held in the embassy since Nov. 4.

"The two affairs are not linked. It would be enough, I repeat, for the United States to admit its responsibilities and to undertake not to interfere in our affairs any more," Mr. Bani-Sadr said.

Asked whether the Iranian authorities envisaged taking over control of the hostages' detention from the students, he replied: "This is a possibility which I envisage for the next few days. But, for this, it would be necessary for the Revolutionary Council, then the imam (Ayatollah Khomeini) to approve my proposition."

Mr. Bani-Sadr said he wanted the United States to conduct "self-criticism... concerning the crimes it committed in Iran for a quarter of a century and recognition of our right to obtain the extradition of the Shah and restitution of his fortune."

"We are so sure of being right that we are prepared to accept the conclusions of an international inquiry in advance," he said.

Mr. Rouleau asked the Iranian president what form of inquiry he would prefer: A U.N. commission composed of government officials from the Third World as proposed by U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim?

He said the PLO had contacted

Hussein voices support for Iraqi charter to settle Arab differences

AMMAN, Feb. 11 (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed support for the Iraqi president's proposed charter governing inter-Arab relations and commitments towards the countries of the region, the Jordan News Agency (JNA) reported.

King Hussein expressed his backing for the plan in a telephone conversation yesterday with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. He said Jordan supports the initiative as a step towards the building of Arab indigenous strength and the consecration of Arab independence of foreign domination and influence.

Jordan supports the principle of Arab solidarity against any aggression or violation of regional Arab sovereignty, the king said.

The eight-point charter renounces the use of force in resolving differences and opposes foreign forces or military bases on Arab territory.

In reply, President Hussein expressed his appreciation of the King's stand stressing the importance of maintaining joint Arab action to promote these principles.

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Begin to help out right wing Rivals locked in intense duels in South Lebanon

NABATIYEH, Lebanon, Feb. 11 (Agencies) — Palestinian and leftist Lebanese gunners and Israeli-backed right-wing militiamen were locked in

an intense exchange of artillery today, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin indicated he would help out the right-wing side.

Local residents said the thud of heavy artillery jolted them out of bed shortly before sunup, and provincial authorities said the militia shelling inflicted enormous damage on houses and olive groves in 11 different hamlets about this market town, eight to fifteen kilometres northeast of Tyre.

Right-wing militias slammed rounds of 155mm shells into a military barracks held by the disident Lebanese Arab Army (LAA), a breakaway group of renegade soldiers led by Lt. Ahmad Al Khatib.

Li Khatib's command issued a statement accusing the militias and their Israeli backers of provoking the fighting. "Our forces had to return the fire and silence the source of artillery shells," a LAA statement said.

"Our gunners scored direct hits, damaged one tank and killed its crew," the statement said.

Hospital sources in the leftist-controlled southern market town of Nabatiyeh said six people here were wounded by rightist shelling, which lasted for six hours.

Officials of the United Nations peace-keeping force in South Lebanon (UNIFIL) contacted the two sides to arrange a ceasefire, but there was still sporadic shelling during the afternoon.

Palestinian sources said the rightists and Israeli gunners opened heavy artillery fire on two

refugee camps near Tyre late in the afternoon.

The bombardment by 155mm guns continued for more than an hour, but no casualties were reported, the sources added.

Israeli planes flew low over the

Palestinian-leftist strongholds of Nabatiyeh, Arnoun and the southern port of Tyre following the morning's artillery barrage which started at dawn.

(Continued on page 6)

Suarez arrives for two-day visit today

AMMAN, Feb. 11 (Agencies) — The Spanish prime minister, Mr. Adolfo Suarez, arrives here tomorrow on a two-day official visit to Jordan, the Jordan News Agency (JNA) reported. It said he will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf on bilateral relations and a number of international issues.

He will fly in from Baghdad after talks with Iraqi leaders, which according to Spanish embassy officials here, are likely to cover the energy crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

His visit here, the first by a Spanish prime minister, and to Iraq, is seen by observers in Amman as reflecting increased Spanish interest in Middle Eastern affairs.

The 48-year-old Dr. Suarez is also expected to visit Syria and

Saudi Arabia in the spring. The officials said he would gather information on the Arab-Israeli conflict and brief his hosts on his country's hopes for a peaceful settlement recognising Palestinian rights.

Spain, which has no diplomatic relations with Israel, has always expressed support for the Arabs in their demand for a total Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

In September last year it became the first West European country to receive Palestinian commando leader Yasser Arafat. The Palestine Liberation Organisation also has an office in Madrid.

Accompanying Dr. Suarez are Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja Aguirre and Minister of Commerce and Tourism Juan Antonio

(Continued on page 2)

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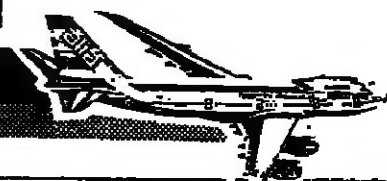
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Jordan Times

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Bienvenidos

SPAIN has a long history of association with the Arab World, dating from the time when it was part of a vast Arab empire. Today Spain, in its inspiring reawakening from the Franco era, is engaged in reinforcing these vital ties with the Arab World. The Spanish monarch, King Juan Carlos, is already well known, not only here in Jordan, but throughout the region. Now we are honoured to welcome the Spanish Prime Minister, Dr. Adolfo Suarez, and his high-level party, on an official visit to Jordan.

If the Arab people have high hopes about building bridges of understanding and cooperation with Europe as a means of eliciting European support for our national and economic aspirations, these hopes are perhaps best embodied in our relationship with Spain. On the economic level, there is much room for growth on both sides of the relationship, with the promise of advantages to both sides. On the cultural and educational level, many long-standing ties already exist, and these can only be strengthened in future.

On the political level, Spanish-Arab relations likewise can only go from strength to strength. Spain is one of the few western European countries which does not recognise Israel, and last year became the first western European nation to receive an official visit from Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat. The PLO on that occasion opened an office in Madrid.

Such diplomatic gains can only produce positive results for the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East, based on the essential requirements of a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, and a recognition of the national rights of the Palestinians. In supporting these just requirements for peace, Spain is itself working for peace.

We extend the warmest of Arab welcomes to Dr. Suarez and his party today and hope that their discussions here will be fruitful for both of our fraternal peoples.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'Y: Jordan, in supporting the principles put forth in the national charter presented by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to the Arab nation, believes that they represent the logical translation into action of the strategy for which it has always called and which is crystallised in the following goals:

--Preservation of the Arab personality intact, and keeping it effective both in the region and at the international level. This calls on the Arab countries to refrain from using force against each other in solving any conflict that may arise, for whatever reason.

--Building up indigenous Arab strength and keeping Arabs from wasting their energies against one another.

--Keeping the Arab region away from international conflicts and concentrating on the Arab cause, as the basic issue for all Arabs, in order to protect the region from the dangers of cold or hot confrontation between the two superpowers.

--Transcending the slogans of national relations among Arab countries to reach the level of genuine practice by confronting external aggression or providing Arab economic support for Arab countries who need it, to face international economic challenges and stresses.

This national charter is, without a doubt, a positive step to give the pan-Arab commitment clear meaning and to develop it into specific attitudes that accept no vague interpretations. The hope remains strong that the national charter will receive prompt and comprehensive Arab response, especially since the time element and the dangers surrounding our region and cause constitute sources of pressure which do not allow us to sit still.

AL DUSTOUR: In the face of the challenges and dangers confronting the Arab nation, Iraq has come up with its vision of the foundations upon which Arab action and relations should be based. This was contained in eight principles mentioned in a national charter. It is no wonder that Jordan is the first to respond to this call, and bless this positive and timely move.

Jordan, from its concern and emphasis on its Arab character, always aims at unifying principles to allow the nation to achieve its aspirations in unity, liberty and progress. The Iraqi call, which emanated from a pan-Arab, national and responsible feeling, is worthy of the attention of Arabs everywhere and therefore should also find its echo from Arab leaders and officials. The call has already given a positive response from Jordan, announced by His Majesty King Hussein in his telephone call with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. We still hope it will also find strong response from all Arab leaders and peoples alike.

WHAT'S-GOING ON

Photo Exhibition

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities presents an exhibition of archaeological photographs at the Haya Arts Centre. The opening of the exhibition is at 4:00 p.m., and it will run until February 16.

Archaeology

Dr. James Sauer of ACOR is giving the first class on an "Introduction to the Pottery of Jordan" at the American Centre at 6:30 p.m. This is the first meeting for this course which will last for ten weeks. A final schedule for the course will be decided at the same time.

British Film

The British Council presents a film of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" directed by Peter Hall. This is showing in place of "The Caretaker" which had been scheduled to show today. The film starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets reserving free entry are available at the desk until the starting time of the film.

German Film

The Goethe Institute presents a film by Niklaus Schilling entitled "Nachtschatten" and starring Elke Hart and John van Dreelen. The film starts at 8:00 p.m., and there are no subtitles.



AMMAN, Feb. 11 (JNA) — A visiting Moroccan Parliamentary delegation today reviewed with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem current Arab affairs, the Middle East question and Jordanian-Moroccan relations.

Jordan - Turkey tourism programme drawn up

AMMAN, Feb. 11 (JNA) — Jordan and Turkey have drawn up a programme for implementing a tourism agreement they signed in 1976. Director General of Tourism Mr. Michael Hamameh said here last night.

Speaking upon returning from a week-long visit to Ankara, Mr. Hamameh said that in talks with Turkish officials agreement was reached also on certain matters that would facilitate tourist exchanges between Jordan and Turkey, and on holding a meeting of tourism officials of both countries in November to explore further means of promoting bilateral cooperation in the tourism field. Officials from both national airlines will meet, also, to reach agreement on operating direct flights between Amman and Istanbul, Mr. Hamameh said.

Mr. Hamameh also discussed with Turkish officials Turkey's participation in the restoration of the Fort of Aqaba and the subject will be further considered by Turkey. Accompanying Mr. Hamameh on the visit was a three-member delegation.

Taxis get cards stating new fares

AMMAN, Feb. 11 (JNA) — The Ministry of Transport today distributed to all taxis cards clearly stating the fares, which have been increased following the new increase in the prices of petrol.

The Director of Overland Transport at the ministry, Mr. Yacoub Haddad, said a card will be an official document only if stamped by the ministry. The cards will be withdrawn from the cars immediately after all taxi meters are adjusted, which will take about two months, he added.

Mr. Haddad urged the public not to pay any fare that is not in agreement with the cards, which have been distributed to all cars that have meters. Any car that does not carry the card, he said, can only charge according to the old schedule.

Giscard d'Estaing to visit Jordan on March ME tour

AMMAN, Feb. 11 (JNA) — French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and his wife will pay an official visit to Jordan on March 8 and 9, 1980 at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein, an announcement by the royal court said today.

The visit will be part of a nine-day tour by Mr. Giscard d'Estaing of five Arab countries starting on March 1, according to an announcement from the French presidential palace.

The other countries he will visit are Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The French announcement said he would discuss with Arab leaders the oil crisis, security in the Gulf and Middle East and other world problems following the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

PLO to resist settlements

(Continued from page 1)

after the incident, was lifted briefly for the first time yesterday to allow the Arab population to buy food.

Mr. Abu Maizar called on all international organisations as well as Arabs and Muslims throughout the world to stand firmly against Israel's policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

He said the Palestinian people, led by the PLO, "will do their utmost to foil these American plots and Zionist plans".

He said his organisation had drawn up a plan to prevent the Israeli authorities from carrying out its settlement projects in Hebron. "The plan is being implemented in cooperation with Palestinian national forces inside the occupied territories and with their friends abroad," Mr. Abu Maizar said.

Israel yesterday laid the cornerstone of what is planned to become one of the biggest Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli cabinet ministers attended the ceremony marking the beginning of construction of Efrat, an urban settlement on the Jerusalem-Hebron road.

Housing ministry officials said the government hoped to build the first 350 flats in the town within two years with the aim of settling 5,000 families during a period of 10 years.

U.S. immigrants

The first neighbourhood will be built on a plot of seven hectares of land, none of which belongs to West Bank Palestinians, according to a government claim.

The first settlers to move in will be new immigrants from the United States, the officials said.

In Cairo, Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman said co-existence, rather than Jewish settlements, provide security for Israel.

Mr. Weizman's remarks came in an interview with Al Ahram newspaper published today and seem to clash sharply with the position of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Mr. Begin has maintained that settlements are Israel's security blanket.

"Settlements do not represent security," for Israel Mr. Weizman was quoted as saying. "Security will come through co-existence, knowing each other's problems and reinforcing mutual confidence."

confidence. "Israeli efforts in these domains are sadly very limited," he added.

Internal problems

The Israeli defence minister, a prominent figure in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations for peace, also explained that the withdrawal from settlements in the Sinai Peninsula, like in the West Bank, would create internal problems for Israel, but added that despite that he was optimistic for a settlement of the Palestinian autonomy negotiations.

Egypt, Israel and the U.S. will hold the next round of their Palestinian autonomy talks in London on Feb. 26 and 27, informed diplomatic sources said today.

The talks will be attended by Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil, Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg and U.S. Middle East envoy Sol Linowitz.

The three delegates concluded two days of talks in Herzlia, north of Tel Aviv, late last month when Egypt and Israel turned down each other's proposals on autonomy for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli officials said they expect Mr. Linowitz to speed up his search for common ground between Israeli and Egyptian plans on granting self-rule for the West Bank and Gaza.

Lower priority

Mr. Linowitz has made clear he intends using every effort to bring the talks to a successful conclusion by next May, the date stipulated in the Camp David summit accords of 1978.

His haste has not been entirely welcomed by Israeli officials who at one stage were arguing that the Palestinian question should be relegated to a lower priority because of larger American problems in Iran and Afghanistan.

Israeli leaders were openly disconcerted by American insistence that a swift solution to the Palestinian problem was the best way of helping settle wider issues.

In defining the American attitude Mr. Linowitz has said the negotiators must devise a formula which Palestinians would find attractive. So far the West Bank and Gaza Arabs have refused to join the discussions, saying autonomy is a trick to perpetuate the 13-year-old Israeli occupation of their land.

Suarez

(Continued from page 1)

Garcia-Diez

Mr. Oreja is a graduate in law from the University of Madrid and continued his studies at the University of Bonn. City College in London and the research centre of the International Law Academy at The Hague.

He has been minister of foreign affairs since July 1976 and was appointed a senator in 1977. He has also served as under-secretary for foreign affairs and for information and tourism, and as director of international relations at the Bank of Spain.

Mr. Garcia, appointed minister of commerce and tourism in July 1977, was previously secretary-general of Spanish Railways and before that served in technical posts in the Ministry of Commerce and as a commercial attaché in Peru and Bolivia.

Officials said that Dr. Suarez and his aides would discuss the possible expansion of Spain's trade with Jordan. He would explore the possibility of entering into agreements to extend technological aid to Jordan.

He and Prime Minister, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, are also expected to review cultural relations. There are about 3,000 Jordanian students studying in Spanish universities. A two-year cultural programme of action would be signed during the visit, officials said.

Spanish archaeologists have reconstructed two historical cities in Jordan — Qasr Amra in the desert and the citadel in Amman. They have also been digging in Tel Madayneh in southern Jordan.

A Spanish airforce plane last year photographed archaeological sites in the country. The pictures were exhibited in Madrid along with Nabataean artifacts.



Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja



Commerce Minister Juan A. Garcia-Diez

PROFILE

Adolfo Suarez: Amiable, enthusiastic and astute

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is a profile by Reuters of Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, who arrives in Amman today for a 24-hour official visit to Jordan.

By Kevin Dunn

MADRID—On a sunny December morning four years ago a young politician named Adolfo Suarez, dressed in the blue shirt of the Falangists, knelt to swear allegiance to Spain's single-state party.



Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez

The occasion was the swearing-in of the country's first government following the death of dictator Francisco Franco the month before.

Coming among a batch of new ministerial appointments, the naming of Suarez as head of Franco's party, the National Movement, passed largely unnoticed.

But today the handsome career politician is firmly established as prime minister of a rejuvenated and democratic Spain, and his spell as head of the "Movimiento" is an episode he perhaps would rather forget.

If only to remind him and Spain of his past, a first, best-selling biography of the young premier carries a photograph of his swearing-in on its cover.

Superimposed over Suarez's left shoulder is an impassive Franco.

The book's cover and its title *Adolfo Suarez: Story of an Ambition* give immediate notice that it is far from an official biography.

But although its publication was awaited with apprehension by the prime minister's entourage, journalist Gregorio Moran has not hit Suarez very hard.

The portrait which emerges is of a charming but fiercely ambitious young man charting his way to power through the labyrinths of the Franco regime with a mixture of luck and good judgment.

According to the author, Suarez's overriding characteristics as a young man were "amiability, niceness and enthusiastic servility." But he is also credited with "a political sense of smell for knowing which way the wind is going to blow."

Suarez was born into a middle-class provincial family in 1932.

Barely four years old when the 1936-39 civil

war erupted, Suarez was unscarred by its di. He belonged to neither the winning no camp.

His father, far from being a Francoist, known for supporting a Republican ed narrowly escaped arrest by the National Suarez's home province of Avila marked Castilian, centrist and Roman Catholic.

Avila, Moran relates, was a town which summarily fined its women if they stopped street without wearing stockings.

Cloistered within Avila's medieval Suarez grew up away from the bustle of. But when he and other young aspiring po moved here they injected new blood moribund establishment.

In Madrid Suarez's political "nose" let success.

Moran points out that Suarez arrived he age of 26 with none of the traditional attri success in Francoist Spain.

He had no glorious civil war past, no professional career, no money, no fami nections.

The young administrator, with a mod degree as his only qualification, was th obliged to seek the protection of politica fathers" and develop his natural flair fo relations.

"(He) did not excel at anything, ex being likeable and his gift for making f Moran writes, attributing 60 per cent of t success to his personal charm.

But Moran does not deny the future p astuteness. Seeking a civil governorship, rented a holiday flat next door to the then minister and carefully cultivated his frier

The move paid off. In June 1968, at th 37, Suarez became Spain's youngest ci eror when he was appointed to head l authority in the province of Segovia.

Later, as head of Spanish television l years, he was able to promote his own c court the favours of ministers by clever us small but image-building screen.

But perhaps Suarez's shrewdest move align himself with the then Prince Juan whom Franco appointed in 1969 to succe

Moran says Suarez "treated Juan Carlos long before he became one. The prin number one on his list of people to be paid above the men of the moment."

After Franco's death on Nov. 20, 1975 the prince's former tutor, Torcuato Fer Miranda, who adopted Suarez and ensu appointment, first as minister of the n movement and, in July 1976, as premier.

Through intricate political manoeuvr man who was "an average boy, neither u good-looking, clever nor stupid, tall nor had got to the top.

Suarez's appointment was greeted by h derision, dismay and disappointment. Bt still there.

Drawing on former friendships, negotiating and, as ever personal chara, was able to reform the Francoist dictatur within and transform it into a democracy

To do so, he relied heavily on former c with the pillars of the "ancient regime" Catholic church, the "Movimiento" and th ary class — and yet was able to appea paratively "clean" to a sceptical dem opposition.

According to Moran, the transition ne man like Suarez — "malleable, disciplin fabulous capacity for hiding his feelings... and, above all, excellent at public relat

Apart from a love of power, Moran wri Suarez has only one passion—playing cards in its biggest gamble of the century, seems found the right man.

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A satisfactory salary will be negotiat plus fringe benefits. Profit f ticipation will be considered.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to P.O. Box 7434, Amman.

Telephone automation proceeds

By Ron Cathell
Times Staff Reporter

Feb. 11—A fully automatic telephone system went into operation today to serve the Marka area. The system will add an additional 3,000 lines and thereby reduce the number of calls on the waiting list for a hook-up, a list that is now 38,000. Mr. Ad Shahed Ismail, director of the Telecommunications Corporation, told the Jordan Times.

It is not the end of the story, Mr. Ismail said. "We hope the end of the story in Amman will be the actual for telephone and tele-

time it is anticipated that direct digital dialing (DDD) through all parts of the country, which will be off with an automatic system in each section. In Amman, for example, the system can handle 35,000 lines, the same capacity as the other automatic exchanges to go into use next month. Full

capacity of each exchange is reached by adding blocks of 5,000 lines. This is done with a modular exchange system, by simply plugging in another component until the full capacity of 35,000 lines is reached. The maximum load the computer in each exchange can



Mr. Mohammad Shahed Ismail

handle.

The TCC has already arranged a loan from the Japanese government to purchase additional components to increase the load of three new exchanges by 5,000 lines and the load of the Abdali exchange by 10,000 lines. It is expected these additions will be made by mid-1981.

The loan is through the Japanese government because the contract for the four exchange was awarded to a Japanese firm as a turnkey project which includes the equipment.

The TCC has now contracted two Japanese firms to manage the connection of new subscribers to the automatic exchanges, and to supervise the transfer of some existing subscribers from the old electro-mechanical exchanges to the new exchanges. The firms will also train Jordanian technicians from the TCC on how to operate

and repair the new equipment.

Those waiting for telephone service will soon be contacted by the TCC, in chronological order starting with those who have waited longest, and will be asked to pay the one-time installation charge of JD 60 and the annual subscription of JD 18.

All telephone numbers of the new Marka exchange will start with the digit "4". Some 50 subscribers were connected to the new exchange yesterday to test the system on its first implementation. "The commissioning of the Marka exchange was successful from the very first moment," Mr. Ismail said.

The Wadi Seer exchange will have an initial capacity of 5,000 lines and immediately relieve the overcrowded existing electro-mechanical exchange. The new exchange will serve much of the Wadi Seer area plus the area between the Fifth Circle and the Wadi Seer junction. This will allow the old exchange to serve only within the Wadi Seer municipal lines. The new exchange is located at the Wadi Seer junction.

The new Suweileh exchange is identical to the Wadi Seer exchange, with an initial capacity of 5,000 lines and an ultimate capacity of 35,000 lines. It is located at the Suweileh junction. Much of its future load will be facilitated by extensions of telephone trunk lines into Amman's outlying regions. The extensions of these lines is now being conducted by a Japanese firm. When completed in 30 months, it will allow for an additional 50,000 lines in the Amman region.

The new Abdali exchange, the only one financed by Jordan, will replace the existing electro-mechanical exchange. The new automatic system will have an initial capacity of 10,000 lines, a

3,000-line increase over the old exchange, which had 7,000 lines. The first expansion of the new system has already been secured through the Japanese loan. That expansion calls for a block of 10,000 lines.

The old Abdali exchange won't go to waste. The TCC has signed a contract with an Indian firm to dismantle part of the exchange, refurbish the equipment and install it in the existing Ashrafieh exchange to raise its number of lines from 7,000 to 10,000, which is the maximum number an electro-mechanical exchange can handle.

The turnkey project for the four new exchanges also includes a provision that all overhead telephone lines be replaced and put underground. This does not, however, include droplines, the telephone wire from a building to the nearest pole.

Droplines have caused the greatest difficulties for the TCC in maintaining proper service, because they are not of sufficient quality to withstand severe weather. So the TCC has just purchased, and received, over two million metres of superior dropline from the United States which it will soon use to replace all original droplines. The new, heavily insulated line meets all U.S. specifications. "If this line passes requirements for America, where weather conditions vary extremely, I think it will function fine in Jordan's rather moderate climate," Mr. Ismail said.

A great advantage of the four new exchanges is that they will take many subscribers from existing exchanges and leave many telephone numbers vacant in the exchange can subscribe to telephone service.

Other benefits offered by the

new exchanges not offered by the old exchanges are abbreviated dialing, a system to place a call on hold, a call transfer system and priority status.

Abbreviated dialing is used for numbers frequently called. Instead of dialing five or more digits — when the DDD system goes into operation in 1985 the number of digits could reach nine — a caller can dial only two digits which have been programmed into the exchange's computer.

Also, a call waiting system will allow the receiver to place a call "on hold" while he answers another call, and then get back to the original call.

A transfer system will allow a receiver to programme into the computer another number where he will be later. That way a doctor, for example, can leave his office yet receive at his home all calls meant for the office.

And a priority service will ensure that if an exchange malfunctions or repairs are necessary, the priority subscriber will be the last to be disconnected.

Accompanying the project for the new exchanges, though on a separate contract, is a project to upgrade junction stations which connect the eight exchanges in the Amman region. The four new automatic exchanges and the four existing exchanges are linked by circuits at junctions. At times these junctions are overcrowded and a caller cannot get a line through. For example, it is not uncommon for a midday caller from the Abdali exchange, which starts with the digit "6", to try to call someone in Jabal Amman through the Zahran exchange, which starts with the digit "4", and get an engaged signal after dialing only the first "4". In this case, the junction circuits are fully occupied.

But the project just started will increase by 69 per cent the capacity of the existing circuits by incorporating a modern Pulse Code Modulation (PCM) system. Instead of a wire within the junction cable carrying only a few calls, each wire can increase its load four to six times by using a different frequency for each call within the wire. But because the existing junction cables were not originally designed for PCM, the maximum increase they can handle is 69 per cent. Eventually the old circuits will be replaced with cables designed to accommodate the PCM system.



AMMAN, Feb. 11 (JT)—A petrol tanker carrying nearly 36 tonnes of petrol overturned while climbing up a steep side of Jabal Hussein at dawn today. The tanker trailer broke loose from the engine as a result, and hurtled down the street, hitting cars parked along the sides. A considerable quantity of

petrol leaked out and flowed down the road into the drains, while the remainder was emptied into other tanks brought in by the Civil Defence Department. Fire engines and police were immediately called to the scene and the area was sealed off, but there was no fire. No casualties were reported in the accident.

National gallery opens today

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN, Feb. 11—Tuesday marks the beginning of a new era in the Jordanian art world with the opening of the first permanent home for works by both local and other Arab artists to be established in this country, the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jabal Luweibdeh.

The Gallery, which will be opened by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, has been established by the Royal Society of Fine Arts with the aim of making it something of a pioneer in its field—not only in Jordan but in the rest of the Arab and Islamic Worlds and neighbouring countries in the Middle East, as Her Highness, Princess Wijdan, president of the society's founding committee, explained today.

In the year since the society was formed, Princess Wijdan, who is herself an artist, and a small group of local art-lovers and artists, spurred on by the society's patron Queen Noor, have collected an assortment of works by more than 60 painters, sculptors and ceramists, mostly contemporary. The works now on display have been divided into three categories: contemporary Arab, predominantly Jordanian and Iraqi; "orientalists"—European artists, chiefly of the last century, who were inspired by the Arab environment

and "pioneers"—those artists, both Arab and non-Arab who spent at least part of their lives in Jordan and had a big influence on present-day Jordanian artists.

Most of the works have been donated and a few bought, both here and abroad, with funds collected privately. There have been no fund raising activities on a public scale, the society depending instead on the generosity of individual benefactors and a handful of government institutions and banks.

The gallery's home, in a villa overlooking the Muntasser Circle in Jabal Luweibdeh, is only temporary, until the time comes when the JD 1 million needed for a permanent home have been raised. Then there will be room to accommodate an ever-growing number of works not on display, as well as a reference library of art and architecture books. Among the donations so far received is a set of books on Islamic art from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Plans that will be put into operation immediately, despite the limited space, include monthly exhibitions by Jordanian or foreign artists. Foreign critics will be invited to these shows and their critiques published in the local press, thus providing the artists with professional constructive criticism. Lectures and discussion will

also be held on a regular basis and scholarships awarded to Jordanians, to study not only art abroad, but also conservation and museum management.

The opening tomorrow will be attended by all the museum's donors, as well as a number of government officials and diplomats. A separate opening will be held on Thursday afternoon for all local artists, regardless of whether they are represented in the gallery or not.

The gallery will be open daily, except for Mondays, as from Wednesday Feb. 15. Opening hours 10-1 p.m., 3:30-6 p.m.

TODAY'S WEATHER

A gradual improvement will take place, with a slight increase in temperature. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
	low	high
Amman	6	13
Aqaba	11	21
Deserts	7	16
Jordan Valley	11	20

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	294.00/296.00
U.K. sterling	676.20/680.50
West German mark	168.80/169.80
Swiss franc	181.30/182.40
French franc	72.10/72.50
Italian lire	(for every 100)
Japanese yen	36.40/36.60
(for every 100)	121.60/122.30
Dutch guilder	153.00/153.90
Belgium franc	103.90/104.50
Swedish crown	70.80/71.20

Indian envoy holds reception

The Indian ambassador in Amman and the director of the Indian Tea Council held a reception Sunday night at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, attended by several officials from the industrial and trade sectors as well as a number of businessmen.

The best Indian teas were served and a film on the Indian tea industry, packing and export was shown during the reception.

Local News Briefs

N. Feb. 11 (JNA)—His Highness Prince Mohammad today in army headquarters and met briefly with the Commander of the armed forces, Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The minister, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, yesterday visited the admirals and discussed with the commander-in-chief a of subjects pertaining to the armed forces.

N. Feb. 11 (JNA)—The Papal Nuncio in Jerusalem met with his of Municipal, Rural and Environmental Affairs, Dr. Harar, today to review conditions in the Holy City under occupation. The Nuncio, who arrived here on Friday, met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan Al

N. Feb. 11 (JNA)—The Prime Minister, Sharif Abdul Hamid, today briefed the Foreign Relations Committee at the Consultative Council on the government's recent political activities on the Arab and international levels. These activities, concentrated on efforts to strengthen Arab unity and maintain a unified Arab stand on various issues. During the meeting, which was attended by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasbi, the committee elected Mr. La'ouf Al Rawabdeh as its rapporteur.

N. Feb. 11 (JNA)—Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. Ali Shif for Tunis yesterday to take part in the Arab Economic Meeting. During the three-day meeting, Mr. Shif said in a before departure, the council will follow up on economic tackled by the Arab summit conferences of Baghdad and id will discuss projected agreements on trade exchange and for investment among Arab states. It will also take up the of food security and a report by governors of Arab central organising monetary matters among Arab countries. The is accompanied by a four-man delegation.

N. Feb. 11 (JNA)—Total savings deposited by the public in Office Savings Fund during the last month amounted to JD 100,000 compared to JD 100,000 in the previous month, the Director of the fund, Mr. Abdullah Al Hawamdeh, said today. He said the of depositors has also risen during this period to 3000 from 1,000. Mr. Hawamdeh attributed the sharp increase to the 6.5 per cent interest the fund pays on savings, in comparison with the cent offered by banks, and to the fact that post offices are th in the morning and in the afternoon.

N. Feb. 11 (JNA)—A three-member team from the Telecommunications Corporation left for Damascus yesterday to look gress so far achieved in a project, to establish microwave e links between Jordan and Syria. The team will also hold h Syrian officials during the visit, which will last one week.

N. Feb. 11 (JNA)—A royal decree was issued today ng Mr. Sa'id Bino Director General of the Water Supply tion. Mr. Bino had served as Minister of Public Works in the governments.

N. Feb. 11 (JNA)—An annual prize of JD 500 will from be awarded to the best teacher of the year in every gov- and district, an announcement by the Ministry of Education

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AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Name of Company	Par Value	Number Traded	High	Low	Closing Price
Bank of Jordan	JD 5,000	246	17.100	17.100	17.100
Jordan Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	24511	1.680	1.610	1.610
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	900	2.300	2.300	2.300
Petra Bank	JD 10,000	225	16.150	16.150	16.150
Jordan Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	1000	2.110	2.110	2.110
Arab Investment Bank	JD 1,000	100	1.390	1.390	1.390
Jordan National Bank	JD 5,000	60	17.000	17.000	17.000
Islamic Bank	JD 1,000	100	2.900	2.900	2.900
Arab Bank Co.	JD 10,000	40	99.750	99.750	99.750
Cairo Amman Bank	JD 5,000	2270	16.000	15.700	16.000
Jordan Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	611	12.500	12.500	12.500
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Co.	JD 5,000	117	9.150	9.150	9.150
Dar Al Dawa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	300	4.110	4.110	4.110
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	300	3.150	3.140	3.140
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co.	JD 1,000	20	27.550	27.550	27.550
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	100	1.610	1.610	1.610
International Construction and Investment	JD 1,000	12523	2.410	2.190	2.200
Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Co.	JD 1,000	21000	1.000	0.990	0.990
Garage Owners Federation Office Co.	JD 1,000	120	1.250	1.250	1.250
Jordan Phosphate Mines Co.	JD 1,000	792	3.600	3.600	3.600
Arab Chemical Detergents Industries Co.	JD 1,000	3130	2.100	2.100	2.100
Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co.	JD 1,000	150	10.000	10.000	10.000
National Steel Industry	JD 10,000	95	15.500	15.500	15.500

Total volume traded on Monday, Feb. 11, 1980: JD 166,975

Total number of shares traded: 48,109

Government Development Bonds

Year of Maturity	Par Value	Number Traded	Volume Traded	High	Low
1989	JD 10,000	100	1004	10.040	10.040

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French down Soviet in tennis

MONTPELLIER, France, Feb. 11 (R)—France beat the Soviet Union 3-2 in the Davis Cup European zone third round tie here.

Meanwhile in Seville, Spain beat The Netherlands 4-1 in their third round tennis match by winning the last two singles here yesterday. Tom Okker retired exhausted when Angel Gimenez was leading 6-1, 6-1 and Fernando Luna beat Louk Sanders 6-4, 6-1, 6-4.

Also yesterday, Finland beat Poland 5-0 in their Davis Cup tennis match.

Hungary beat Bulgaria 4-1 in their third round tennis tie in Sofia, sharing last night's reverse singles, one match each.

Korean boxer retains title

SEOUL, Feb. 11 (R)—South Korea's Park Chan-Hee pounded out a unanimous points victory over Filipino Amel Arrozal in defence of his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title here last night. The 23-year-old champion looked set for an easy win when he floored Arrozal in the second round, but he failed to follow up his advantage. Arrozal, 22, the Philippines' champion and rated as no. 5 contender by the WBC, started chasing the Korean from the 10th round, but was unable to match Park's fast footwork. Referee Ken Morita of Japan scored the bout 147 to 144 and Korean Judge Kim Kwang-Su and Philippine official Alfredo Quizon made it 149-145 and 146-142 respectively.

The pair seemed unconvinced that a world title was at stake and made no serious efforts to take the fight to the other man. Park piled up his points by catching the Filipino with counter-punches to the head while southpaw Arrozal concentrated on body punching. In the ninth, Park finally unleashed a flurry of short combination blows to Arrozal's face and body after the referee urged both fighters to show more action. The effort led to a slugging battle in the 11th with Arrozal determined to shake off his points deficit. Arrozal landed several blows to the champion's head and stomach, in the closing rounds, but the Korean countered with short hooks. Park captured the title by outpointing Mexican Miguel Canto in Seoul last March and has now defended it four times.

JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

West German soccer scores

BONN, Feb. 11 (JT) — Results of West German soccer matches played over the weekend were:

FC Kaiserslautern 4, Bayer Leverkusen 0.
Eintracht Frankfurt 7, Eintracht Braunschweig 2.
FC Köln 2, VfB Stuttgart 2.
Bayer Uerdingen 3, Borussia Dortmund 0.
VfL Bochum 3, 1860 München 0.
MSV Duisburg 1, FC Schalke 04 2.
FC Bayern München 3, Borussia Mönchengladbach 1.

Leading standings

1. Hamburger SV
2. Bayern München
3. 1. FC Köln
4. 1. FC Schalke 04
5. Eintr. Frankfurt
6. VfB Stuttgart
7. Bor. Dortmund
8. Bor. Mon. Gladbach
9. 1. FC Kaiserslautern
10. Bayer Uerdingen

Inter defeat Napoli

ROME, Feb. 11 (R)—Inter had the best of a seven-goal thriller at Napoli yesterday to keep their five-point lead at the top of the Italian First Division. The 4-3 scoreline was the highest at Napoli for three years and with two thirds of the season over Inter are now almost unchallenged for the title. Juventus continued their climb up the table with a 3-1 win at Udinese. Roberto Bettega, a key member of the national side, followed his two goals last week with a pair today. Udinese hope to avoid relegation but the future looks grim for another newly-promoted side, Pescara. They lost 2-1 at home to Fiorentina and are 10 points adrift at the bottom. Both Rome clubs lost. Lazio, without two suspended stars, conceded their unbeaten home record 1-0 against Ascoli, while Roma went down by the same score at Torino. Second-placed Milan edged visitors Perugia out 1-0.

E. German woman sets new discus record

EAST BERLIN, Feb. 11 (R)—Irina Meszynski of East Germany set a women's world junior discus record of 64.32 metres at an outdoor field events meeting here yesterday. The 17-year-old European junior champion bettered by 1.06 metres the previous best, achieved by compatriot Evelin Jäfl Schluak in August, 1974.

Glasgow Rangers to visit Dubai, Kuwait

LONDON, Feb. 11 (R)—Scottish Premier League soccer Glasgow Rangers have announced that they will play two matches in Dubai and Kuwait later this month, flying out from Scotland Feb. 24. Champions of their country 34 times and winners of European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1972, Rangers have 11 Scottish internationals in their first-team squad.



Bulgarian Peter Popangelov skis to first place in the West special slalom in Lengrie, Germany last week (AP photo)

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IOC to debate U.S. demand that Olympics be taken from Moscow

LAKE PLACID, Feb. 11 (R) — The guardians of the Olympic community settled down in earnest today

While competitors from 38 nations geared themselves for the Winter Games, formally opening on Wednesday, the world's foremost amateur sports administrators prepared to tackle the biggest threat they have ever faced.

At stake is the fate of the Summer Games in Moscow and ultimately, the future of the entire Olympic movement.

The full session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will consider a U.S. demand that the games be taken away from Moscow because of the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan.

So vital is the debate that the IOC decided to postpone the start of the two-day discussion for 24 hours until today to enable as many members as possible to take part.

The debate on the Moscow

Games will continue tomorrow but there is no guarantee that there will be an official public announcement by the IOC at the end of the discussion.

What is certain is that a clear majority of IOC members are determined that the show will go on in Moscow as planned, though some are concerned that such a vote could result in public demonstrations and protests during the Winter Games.

But for close to a thousand sportsmen and women now in Lake Placid, the long-term destiny of the Olympics was of less than immediate concern.

They will find their destiny on the artificial snow and ice of this quaint resort village over the next two weeks and the centre of attention today will be the first time practice for the men's downhill, the glamour event of the games.

Around 50 skiers will tackle the

for the most critical debate since the modern movement was founded 86 years ago.

2,928-metre Whiteface Mountain course, which already has prompted mixed views among the top contenders, ranging from too fast to too easy.

But few of the competitors are likely to go all out in the four timed practices for Thursday's race, preferring to keep their talents under wraps as far as possible in the tight-knit high-speed world of top-class skiing.

There was nothing high speed about traffic conditions today, with police expecting lengthy tailbacks as drivers queued at checkpoints on the outskirts of Lake Placid or tried to cope with the confusion caused by the temporary one-way road system within the village.

Only vehicles with passes issued by games authorities were allowed into Lake Placid itself from midnight last night and village residents were restricted to using their cars between midnight and six in the morning.

But security was generally unobtrusive and relations between Olympic visitors and police and state troopers were relaxed and friendly.

Boxer-diplomat Muhammad Ali returned to the United States yesterday claiming success in his five-nation tour of Africa to boost President Carter's call for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

"I was very successful. We had a 75 per cent successful tour," Mr. Ali told reporters at Andrews Air Force Base, near Washington, after his presidential jet arrived from Dakar.

He refused to say what part of the trip he thought was unsuccessful and said details would have to wait until after he had discussed it with President Carter.

"I have a lot of messages for him," Mr. Ali said.

Mr. Ali visited Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania. Before he arrived, Kenya and Liberia had already said they would boycott the Moscow Games in protest against the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Despite Mr. Ali's efforts, Nigeria and Senegal refused to support the boycott and Tanzania has not yet committed itself.

Mr. Ali said the most successful part of his trip was in Kenya, because it decided not to send its strong team of runners to Moscow.

Asked if he would make another, similar trip if asked to do so by Mr. Carter, he replied: "Quick, quick."

He denied reports from Africa that he had said he was being exploited by the president. "I wouldn't say that about my president," he said. "I'm not a diplomat. I'm just a private citizen who is doing what I think is right."

Meanwhile, the brother of the deposed Shah of Iran, Prince Gholam Reza Pahlavi, lost his seat on the International Olympic Committee yesterday.

The prince, elected to IOC membership in 1955, was lapsed because he has not attended the last three sessions. This is a procedure used occasionally to oust inactive members.

IOC directorships give his address as the Royal Palace, Tehran, but he has been in exile since the Islamic revolution last year which overthrew the Shah.

Prince Gholam Reza was an active member during the past decade as Iran expanded its sports facilities and was a key figure in the staging of the 1974 Asian Games in Tehran.

After those games, he directed a brief campaign aimed at staging the 1984 Summer Olympics in the Iranian capital, making use of the magnificent main stadium and other facilities created on the outskirts of the city. Iran gave up its drive to be an Olympic host after studying the huge costs and personnel problems involved.

IOC Director Monique Berlioux told a press conference that the National Olympic Committee of Iran, of which the prince had been president, still existed but was under suspension by the IOC because its rules were not in order.

Sources said the difficulties with the rules were of a technical nature, arising out of Iran's constitutional status, and would be cleared without problems by sports authorities there in the near future.



President Carter

ling the hostage crisis and the American response to Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Despite his strong showing in Maine, Mr. Kennedy goes into New Hampshire with two straight defeats.

After his Iowa defeat, he claimed that victories in Maine and New Hampshire were vital to his campaign, but he now says he will stay in the contest until the end.

Japan attaches major new importance to Middle East

TOKYO, Feb. 11 (R) — Japan is attaching major new importance to the Middle East, supplier of the bulk of its oil needs, following developments in Iran and Afghanistan.

Maintenance of the Middle East oil flow, vital to this country's economy, is fast becoming a new pillar of Japanese foreign policy, taking its place beside the long-standing one of Tokyo's relations with Washington.

Two recent developments bear this out: official reluctance here to go along with a United States request to take part in economic sanctions against both Iran over the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran and the Soviet Union for its military intervention in Afghanistan; and government support for a proposed visit here by Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, probably late next month.

Later this month, former foreign minister Mr. Sunao Sonoda is due to visit the Middle East, as well as India and Pakistan. His trip will cover Saudi Arabia, Japan's biggest oil supplier, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and possibly Iran.

Officially, his tour is in the interests of stable oil supplies for Japan. But he is also expected to try to build trust in Iran with offers of increased economic cooperation plus an effort aimed at the

release of the U.S. embassy hostages, if this has not already occurred.

The Japanese Government appears to have been stung by the criticism that while it is the second largest economic power in the non-communist world, its political influence is virtually nil.

Meanwhile, Tokyo has joined the chorus against the Soviet Union over Afghanistan but has done virtually nothing else to suggest it is seriously following the U.S. request for economic measures against Moscow.

Japan also has increased trade with Iran, which supplies about ten per cent of its oil, during the past two months to levels approaching those before the revolution which toppled the Shah a year ago.

Japan has also decided tentatively to go ahead with a joint project in southern Iran to complete a \$3.2 billion petrochemical complex, one of the country's biggest foreign economic ventures to date.

Mr. Sonoda, foreign minister for two years up to December, said in newspaper interviews that he was not going to the Middle East to "beg for oil."

"It is my main intention to find out what Japan can do in the region amid confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union," he said.

Mr. Sonoda's successor at the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Saburo Okita, a noted economist, told parliament that Japan's policy towards the Middle East should become an important pillar of the country's foreign policy in the 1980s.

Another former foreign minister, Mr. Toshio Kimura, said there was "political merit for Japan not to have fully joined hands with the United States in economic sanctions against Iran."

Mr. Kimura also said he was sending a letter to Mr. Arafat on behalf of the all-party Japanese-Palestinian Friendship Parliamentary League, of which he is chairman, inviting the PLO chief to visit this country.

Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira and Mr. Okita were prepared to meet Mr. Arafat and his political department chief, Mr. Farouk Khaddoumi, during the visit, probably late in March, Mr. Kimura said.

Although Japan has not officially recognised the PLO, it has declared that the organisation is the legitimate representative of Palestinians.

Rhodesia ceasefire faces gravest threat following attempt on Mugabe's life

SALISBURY, Feb. 11 (R) — Rhodesia's fragile six-week-old ceasefire faces its gravest threat following a fresh attempt to kill nationalist leader Robert Mugabe and mounting confrontation between the guerrilla chief and British Governor Lord Soames.

The Marxist-leaning Mr. Mugabe escaped death by seconds yesterday when a big remote-controlled bomb planted in a culvert under a road exploded just after his car sped by.

The blast cut a three-metre hole in the tarmac road and forced a following car into the bush, but Mr. Mugabe was unhurt. It was the second attempt on his life in four days.

It was not known who planted the bomb which, police said, would have blown Mr. Mugabe's car to pieces had it been triggered a few seconds earlier.

News of the incident in the southern town of Fort Victoria reached Salisbury shortly before Lord Soames announced through a spokesman that he had barred one of Mr. Mugabe's senior aides, Mr. Enos Nkala, from campaigning for this month's pre-independence election.

The ban seems certain to increase Mr. Mugabe's anger at Lord Soames' behaviour and it might create unrest in Commonwealth-monitored ceasefire assembly points.

Some 22,000 guerrillas, 17,000 of them loyal to Mr. Mugabe and the rest from Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) have congregated in the assembly points, monitored by only small Commonwealth units.

Although Mr. Nkala is not disqualified as a candidate, he is not permitted to canvass support or publicise his cause in his Marabede area in the run-up to the Feb. 27-29 vote.

The ban was the first move by Lord Soames to stamp out what he says is a widespread campaign of intimidation and political violence by Mr. Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF). Mr. Mugabe denies the British governor's allegation.

News of the attempt to kill Mr. Mugabe and the ban on Mr. Nkala sent a wave of apprehension through already-nervous guerrillas, convincing them that they were under threat and were being victimised by Lord Soames, nationalist sources said.

Tito's recovery slows due to new problems

BELGRADE, Feb. 11 (R) — President Tito's health re-emerged today as a subject of immediate national concern after disclosure that he has developed kidney and digestive problems following the amputation of his left leg last month.

A panel of eight doctors treating the 87-year-old leader said yesterday necessary measures were being taken to cope with the new problems, but they gave no details.

Ordinary Yugoslavs were dismayed by the medical bulletin, since earlier ones had given the strong impression that their ageing leader was making a remarkable recovery and had already resumed some of his official duties.

The officially-inspired press limited its coverage today of the president's condition to reproducing yesterday's four-line communiqué, without any expansion or comment.

But people in shops and offices and their homes worried quietly over what the reported turn of the worse in Marshal Tito's health meant, and what the future might hold.

President Tito underwent an operation in mid-January aimed at clearing an artery blockage, but the surgery failed and gangrene developed in his foot.

To save his life, his lower leg was amputated on Jan. 20. Subsequent bulletins said he was recovering well and top Communist Party officials suggested he might leave hospital last week for his residence at Brdo, in the foothills of the Alps.

But yesterday's bulletin seemed to indicate that the president would have to stay on in the clinical centre in the northwestern city of Ljubljana. The centre is the country's best-equipped hospital

for circulation ailments. The bulletin yesterday, the first in three days, said: "In recent days, the recovery of President of the Republic Josip Broz Tito has been slowed down because of digestion troubles and the appearance of certain difficulties in the kidney function. Measures of necessary treatment are being taken."

Medical specialists in Belgrade said it was difficult to interpret the vague wording of the bulletin, but it appeared to indicate that serious complications had arisen.

"Otherwise they would almost certainly not have been mentioned at all," one doctor said.

Russians' share of Soviet population is slipping, according to census results

MOSCOW, Feb. 11 (R) — Russians still form a narrow majority of the Soviet population but their share is slipping because of a baby boom among Muslim nationalities, according to census results published here.

Publication this week of results from the January 1979 census has given the first accurate picture for nearly a decade of the mixture of nationalities among the Soviet Union's 262 million people.

The 137 million ethnic Russians make up 52.4 per cent of the total population, compared to 53.3 per cent at the last census in 1970.

The next biggest nationality are the Ukrainians with 42 million or 16.1 per cent, compared to 16.8 per cent in 1970.

In third place are the Uzbeks, biggest of the Soviet Union's Muslim nationalities with 12.5 million, a rise of 35 per cent.

The census figures indicate that the Soviet Union has around 40

World News Briefs

ROME, Feb. 11 (R) — Police are searching for three Italian property tycoons who have disappeared, owing hundreds of millions of dollars in one of the country's biggest bankruptcy cases. A Rome court issued arrest warrants last Friday for the Calabrian brothers — Gaetano, Francesco and Camillo — who controlled a big construction and property empire, but they were found to have left the country. So far 29 of their companies have been found bankrupt. Their debts include 250 billion lire (about \$310 million) to Italcasse, the central financing institution of the Italian Savings Bank Movement, which is itself in difficulties. The bank's chairman fled abroad to escape arrest after the Italcasse loan to the brothers was revealed in 1977. Other banks have made big loans to them, raising fears of greater losses.

LISBON, Feb. 11 (R) — A four-day strike by Portugal's air traffic controllers today paralysed international flights, but services to the Atlantic islands of Madeira and the Azores were unaffected. Airport officials said the strike by 300 controllers for better pay and conditions meant the cancellation or rerouting of more than 1,000 flights over the four days of the stoppage: today, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The controllers said they would handle emergency and military flights as well as the island services.

BELFAST, Feb. 11 (R) — Mrs. Betty Williams, who shared a Nobel Peace Prize for her role in forming the Peace People's Movement in Northern Ireland has resigned amid reports of a rift in the organisation. It was also announced that Mr. Peter McLachlan, a member of the movement's executive, has been asked to resign. But Mr. Ciaran McKeown, another of those who founded the group in 1976 declined yesterday to say why Mr. McLachlan was asked to resign and said that Mrs. Williams left to devote more time to her family. Mr. McKeown said that Mrs. Williams had given him and Mr. Mairead Corrigan, who shared the 1977 prize, her support. He denied there was a rift in the movement. Reports of disagreement followed Mr. McKeown's call for some form of special status for provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) prisoners in the "H" bloc in Maze Prison in Belfast. The prisoners are refusing to wear cloth or use lavatory facilities to press their demand that they be accorded "political prisoner" status. The IRA is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

PEKING, Feb. 11 (R) — China, the world's most populous country, striving to reduce its population growth to zero by the year 2000 when it hopes to stabilise the figure at 1.2 billion, the People's Daily said today. At the end of 1978, China had 975 million people according to the latest available Chinese figures, which include the million on Taiwan. One major problem is that half the population still under the age of 21. Between now and the end of the century there will be 20 million people reaching marriageable age each year roughly equivalent to the entire population of Yugoslavia.

BARCELONA, Spain, Feb. 11 (R) — A United Nations environment official today criticised some Mediterranean countries for failing to find the cash needed to combat pollution in the Mediterranean. A Peter Thacher, deputy director of the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP), told delegates from 17 Mediterranean countries that anti-pollution projects were in danger of folding through lack of money. Almost \$6.5 million was pledged towards helping to clean the heavily-polluted sea at a Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) meeting last year. Half was promised by the 17 countries and the other by international organisations. Speaking at the start of a three-day MAP meeting, Mr. Thacher said Italy, Spain, Yugoslavia and Syria had still not paid any contributions.

million people of Muslim origin, about ten million more than in 1970. The Uzbeks have displaced the 9.5 million Byelorussians, who like their fellow Slavs have a low birth rate, as the Soviet Union's third biggest national group. The census showed that other Muslim nationalities such as Tadzhiks, Turkmens, Azerbaijanis and Kazakhs also increased in numbers by between one third and one quarter since 1970.

Among the nationalities to show the smallest growth were the 1.4 million Latvians, who increased in number by only 0.6 per cent over the nine years. Latvia is one of three small Baltic republics where birth rates are very low and pressures for assimilation among non-Russians are traditionally strong.

In Central Asia the picture is the opposite, with high birth rates, large families and less assimilation. The number of religious believers is not known, but is said to be well below the number of people with a Muslim national background.

According to official Soviet theory, "assimilation" is a "drawing together" of national groups through marriage, intermarriage and use of Russian as a common language.

However in some republics proportion of Russians is actually falling because of the high birth rates among the local population.

In Uzbekistan, the proportion of Russians fell to 10.8 per cent from 12.5 per cent in 1970, there were similar falls in Central Asian republics.

In the Caucasian republics Georgia and Azerbaijan, number of Russians fell not proportionally but also in absolute terms.

Bahrain swept by 'pork rush' following announcement of ban

BAHRAIN, Feb. 11 (R) — A government ban on the sale of pork in Bahrain by the end of this month has started a pork rush and a thriving business in deep-freezer sales. Hours after the ban was confirmed by government officials, the foreign community in Bahrain flocked to supermarkets all over the island to stock up their freezers.

One housewife walked into a supermarket in the fashionable diplomatic district of Yateem and said "I will take your entire stock of pork", a supermarket manager said.

"It is like the gold rush and indeed, prices will shoot up too," he said.

From the end of February, no pork or pork products will be allowed into Bahrain.

Another supermarket manager spoke of rationing customers if people tried to buy up too much at a time.

"The government should have advised us in advance. I have a two month's consignment on its way," he said.

The weekly Gulf Mirror said several shops have complained that they did not know what to do as they had not yet been notified officially.

One hotel hoped an exception would be made for the international hotels, which offer pork on their menus.

According to official statistics, Bahrain imported about 7,000 tonnes of pork in 1978, mostly from the U.S., Singapore and Denmark.

The ban has aroused speculation among the foreign community that this could soon be followed by another on alcohol.

Last summer, the government moved all liquor shops from the centre of town, where most business is conducted, to the outskirts.

Iranian celebration

Hojatoleslam, Ahmad Khomeini, the ayatollah's son, stood at the centre of the podium as representative of his father, who is recovering from a heart ailment in a Tehran hospital.

He read a message from the revolutionary leader attacking the United States and calling on what he called oppressed nations to follow Iran's example in rising and kicking out the superpowers.

"We support all the countries under domination for the achievement of their freedom and independence and tell them frankly that they must fight for their rights. Rise and eliminate the superpowers from history," the messages from the 79-year-old ayatollah said.

The message referred to the ruthless expansionist United States but also condemned the Soviet military intervention in neighbouring Afghanistan. "We totally support the brave and Muslim people of Afghanistan," Ayatollah Khomeini's message said. He did not refer to the hostage question.

Ayatollah Khomeini's doctors said they did not know of any plans for him to receive a visit from Mr. Arafat. The Palestine Liberation Organisation leader

was the first international figure to visit Iran after the revolution.

He said on arrival here early today: "This land is part of my homeland."

Fighting subsided today in the northeastern city of Gonbad Kavus between revolutionary guards and local Turkoman guerrillas. The death toll has reached 19 in four days of clashes.

Revolutionary court judge Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali was today dispatched to the Turkoman region to investigate the unrest, which the authorities blame on Marxist Fedayeen guerrillas but the Turkomans say was sparked by the government's revolutionary guards.

Waldheim, or one of non-governmental figures as proposed by Irish Nobel Peace prizewinner Sean McBride.

"My preferences are for the second. However, some members of the Revolutionary Council tend towards the Waldheim commission."

In any case, we have submitted our propositions, the result of a consensus, to Imam Khomeini,

who alone is able to take a decision. We hope to obtain it in the next two days," he said.

Asked if the students might be expelled from the embassy by force, the president said: "There is no question of such a move at the moment. We shall never resort to violence against young patriots whose sincerity and revolutionary sentiments are above suspicion."

"I reproach them only with becoming involved in things that do not concern them," Mr. Bani-Sadr said.

Lebanon

A U.N. spokesman in Beirut claimed that Palestinian commandos backed by their leftist Lebanese allies started the battle with two mortar shots. But the Palestine News Agency (Wafa) blamed the Israelis and the rightist militias for opening the bombardment.

The U.N. spokesman said right-wing forces, who control a 10-km wide strip of territory along the frontier with Israel, pumped about 350 artillery, mortar and tank rounds into Palestinian-held positions around Beaufort Castle, Amoun and Tyre. They

had responded with about 55 rounds. A 6,000-strong U.N. force has been stationed in South Lebanon since an Israeli invasion of the rugged border region in March, 1978, but the spokesman added the artillery battle had not affected U.N. positions.

Commenting on the artillery flare-up, Mr. Begin was quoted as saying Israel would not stand back and watch its allies destroyed.

Speaking in occupied Jerusalem, Mr. Begin said Israel has "a moral commitment" to the Lebanese right-wing. "We proclaimed that we will not allow their destruction," he said.

There have been several artillery battles in South Lebanon since Syrian troop movements sent tensions soaring late last month.

Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman said last week Israeli forces were on high alert and warned the Palestine Liberation Organisation not to take advantage of the Syrian troop redeployment to launch attacks against Israel.

A Syrian decision to pull out an estimated 8,000 peace-keeping troops from Beirut stationed there under an Arab League mandate has sparked fears of fresh fighting in the capital between the hostile factions who battled in the 1975-76 civil war.

Israel approves \$10.6b. budget

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 11 (R) — The Israeli government decided yesterday to allocate the equivalent of 1 billion for next year's budget, a fierce argument at ministers about a national audit plan.